

From: Jim Crofoot
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 5:32pm
Subject: MicroSoft Settlement

I understand that you are taking public comments concerning this subject.
The following are mine.

During the past fifteen years I have been closely involved with five different companies that were introducing technology to agriculture for the benefit of producers and the environment. Two of these companies were developing software for this market. Both our market surveys and the customer proved to us that in computer software you need to have a dominant operating system.

The consumer will chose the dominant system because it is dominant and means the best compatibility with those that they want to connect. Developers must choose the dominant system so that their product is compatible to the greatest possible market. In our opinion the rapid increase of technology during the late 80' and 90's would not have been achieved if during that time we had three or five companies with similar operating systems and market share as Windows.

As both a consumer, user and developer I appreciate the role of the Dept. of Justice. However I believe most markets unless completely regulated by government will be driven by the products and their value. Those completely regulated have shown little or no innovation. From what I have read about this case, it seems that MicroSoft requirement for hardware manufactures to install Windows for a better price may harmful but if this was done though the contract as a part of volume pricing I would say that it is beneficial.

My main comment is SETTLE THIS CASE. The industry, the US and the world are not being served by endless litigation.

As far as I can tell the only parties that have or will gain from this case have been the attorneys. Even MicroSoft competitors have been hurt by the uncertainty of this case and what the future holds. I have yet to hear how the states that are parties to this case have been damaged. I live to west of Iowa and work with producers in both IA and NE. I can't see that residents of IA have been damaged by MicroSoft. The motive for their action appears to be something other than advancing technology.

Thanks for your time, you know how to reach me if you wish.